

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3517

ANSWERED ON:18.04.2005

PROBLEM OF LOCUST SWARM

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some States like Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are likely to be attacked by the locust swarm;
- (b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the UN has advised the Government to deal with this problem in coordination with Pakistan;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has formulated any action plan in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a)to(e): The FAO has apprised India of a relatively low risk of locust invasion during the latter part of 2005 in its North Western region, if ecological conditions in the coastal region of the Red Sea, the Gulf countries, Afganistan and Pakistan favour successful spring breeding. FAO has suggested that India should continue to monitor the global locust situation and carry out regular surveys in its domestic territory and with Pakistan in the border areas to detect any locust build up.

A contingency plan is in place to deal with any locust eventuality. The contingency plan focuses on regular survey and surveillance in the Scheduled Desert Area in the Western Region of the country for timely detection and control of locusts, maintaining readiness in terms of control measures including pesticides and equipment, and exchange of information with neighboring countries and FAO.